

THE QUILL

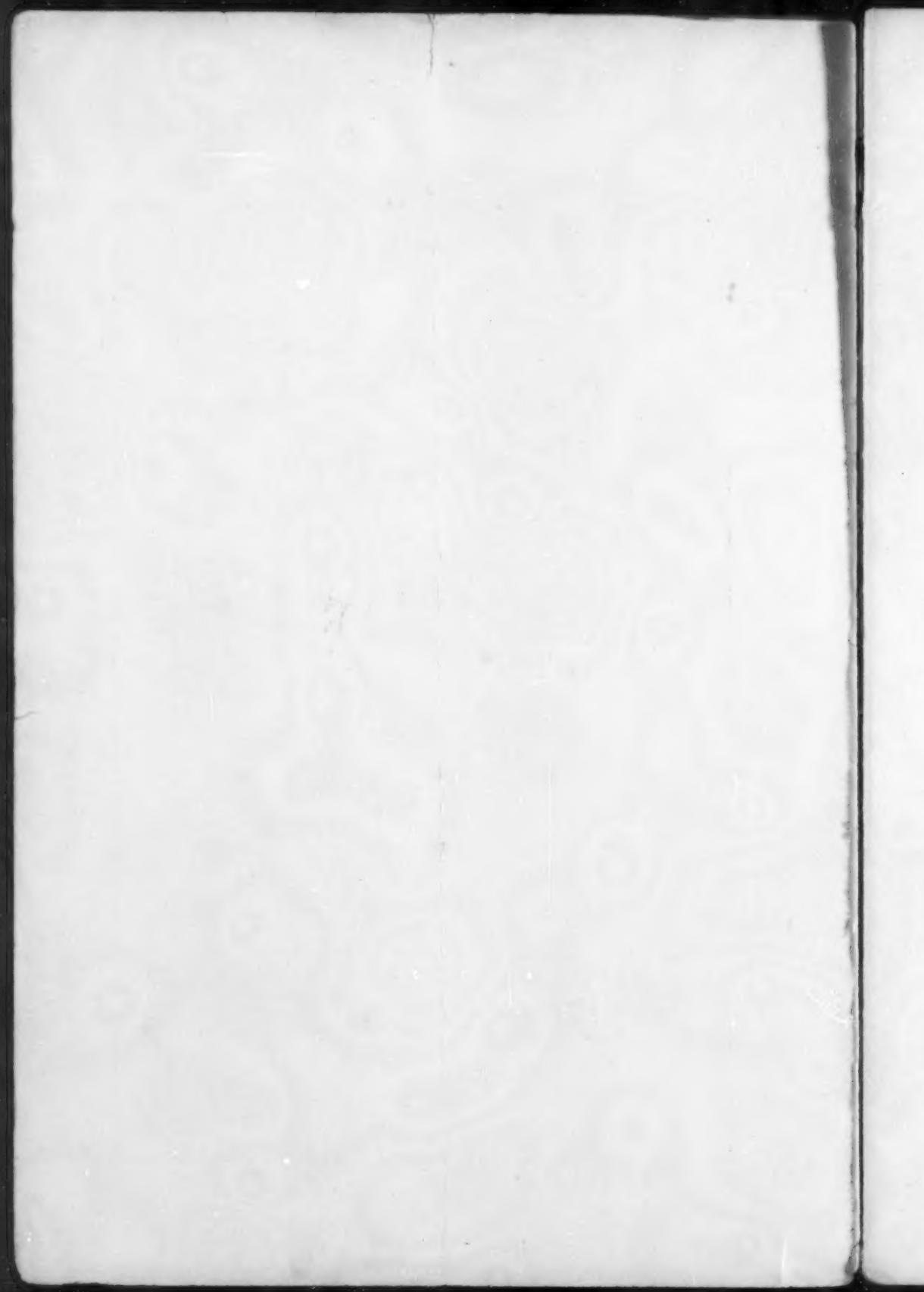
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NUMBER 2



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
SIGMA DELTA CHI
NATIONAL JOURNALISTIC FRATERNITY



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THE QUILL

FRANK W. PENNELL, Editor

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VOL. I

MARCH, 1913

No. 2

EDITORIALS

THE NEED OF A DOCTOR.

We have received numerous inquiries as to the reluctance of **THE QUILL** to keep schedule time. In reply, we point to the scarcity of chapter letters in this issue, and ask you to form your own conclusions. It's one thing to plan for six issues a year, each with its regular press-day; another, to keep steam up under the boilers when the associate editors, as a class, consistently refuse to furnish any material for generating purposes, despite urgent appeals from the engineer and the edicts of the constitution.

To be honest, that six issue idea has dwindled so steadily and successfully that at present we will be content if three **QUILLS** put in an appearance. The next and final issue will be the Convention Number, and we hope to make it the best. At that convention, the drawbacks of the present scheme can be explained and the proper kind of doctoring administered. To this end, Gamma promises the presentation of a new plan at that time for your adoption or rejection.

MORE ANENT DISTRIBUTION.

This is to notify the associate editors and chapter secretaries that copies of this and the remaining issues of **The Quill** are to be mailed to all honorary and ex-active members of the fraternity directly from this office. The copies that you receive are for distribution among active members only.

THAT COMING CONVENTION.

The date of the second annual convention to be held this spring at Madison, Wisconsin, has been announced for May 2 and 3 by the executive council, but now is the time for every member of the fraternity to start with his plans. The first convention covered a lot of ground, yet even greater tasks lie ahead for the next conclave. *THE QUILL*, in its next issue, will contain full particulars and plans. In the meantime, resolve that your respective chapters will be there intact for the big show.

ELEVENTH HOUR NEWS.

The financial report of National Treasurer Lowry, just received, shows receipts amounting to \$184.00 with disbursements totaling to \$179.00. The outstanding bills exceed the balance by \$17.00. However, the fraternity has been to many expenses this year, incident to organization work, and the deficit need not be viewed with alarm.

Secretary Steffan reports that Xi chapter is about to be installed at the University of Texas, and that Omicron chapter has been granted to the University of Oregon. The petition of the Ben Franklin club of the Ben Franklin club of the University of Oklahoma has been approved by the Executive Council and has been ordered before the chapters for their vote.

HELP THE CONVENTION'S PURPOSE.

To facilitate the work of the next convention let us suggest that each chapter start immediately on the new ideas and plans it wishes to present and have the same drawn up in the proper form. Such matters should have precedence over everything else in the few meetings that remain before the purchasing of tickets to Madison.

USE THE TYPEWRITER.

If the associate editors and those contributing special articles to *The Quill* would use more care in the manner of preparing copy, we could approach nearer to accuracy, especially in names, in final proof-reading. To this end, we suggest the more frequent use of the typewriter in lieu of pen and ink and pencil.

A CRUTCH OR A GOOD RIGHT LEG?

BY LAWRENCE H. SLOAN,
NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF SIGMA DELTA CHI.

As Sigma Delta Chi becomes more powerful and more widely spread, and as we who have labored for her and loved her become more deeply convinced that the cause deserves so much more than we have been able to give, we should not smile lightly at the stumbling blocks which lie along the high road to success. Whether the movement we have inaugurated fails, or lives for larger usefulness depends altogether upon the skill with which we solve the fundamental problems of organization.

One of the greatest foes we have to fight today is competition; not from the outside, but from the inside. It is even more formidable because it is unrecognized.

Is the fraternity to be a crutch or a good right leg?

Is it to be something upon which we lean, supporting us as best it may, or shall it be something upon which we stand?

In other words shall it be a subservient interest, dominated and half swamped by other things, or shall it be an institution with its own weight and force.

Self-preservation is instinctive; a man will unfailingly turn to that force from which he can derive the greatest amount of good. Unlike a social fraternity, Sigma Delta Chi has at its roots the principle of extending its influence into the work-a-day world. The fraternity exists today, but it will live tomorrow. The bare handful of men who wear the quill-pierced scroll today are the first in a field that offers unmeasurable possibilities. We shall perhaps be the working newspaper men of the next generation; it will be for us to demonstrate, above all else, that the ideals of the college trained man can be successfully transplanted in the newspaper world. Not this alone, but further, that by these ideals certain problems can be brought nearer their real solutions.

When the fraternity was a struggling, quarreling baby, the men in whose minds it had been conceived were of the opinion that Sigma Delta Chi should rest on a lower plane than the social fraternity. Let us who were wrong first be the first who cross to the other side. Such an absurd status is impossible. The men who wish to make Sigma Delta Chi a brotherhood of lower rank than other

fraternities, are unconsciously cleaning their spades that they may help dig a grave.

The two ideas need not clash; they are utterly different. The social fraternity lies in one field, the professional fraternity in another. They stand for different things.

If a man has accepted membership in Sigma Delta Chi, let him be a member—and a brother. Let him realize that Sigma Delta Chi stands for something big, and has something big to do. Let him realize that Sigma Delta Chi has as much claim on his time and interests as any other organization can have. We waste energy so long as certain chapters remain institutions which mean only an occasional smoker and a picture for the college annual. Let us make Sigma Delta Chi the big thing in our professional life, as we make a social fraternity or club the big thing in our social life.

It is by our profession that we are going to live.

Sigma Delta Chi must be something to stand on, not a prop; it must be the good right leg if it is to make for itself permanent success.

LOOKING AHEAD

BY ROGER F. STEFFAN,

NATIONAL SECRETARY OF SIGMA DELTA CHI.

Certain it is that "westward the star of Empire wends its way" for Sigma Delta Chi. Founded in the Middle West, where the fraternity system of the last half of the nineteenth century was fostered, our brotherhood has made rapid and progressive strides in the big institutions throughout. But the opportunities for expansion to the East were not overlooked when the proper situations were presented. The reason for the greater development westward is because the germ of journalistic instruction has not yet started growth so largely in the other sections of the country.

The University of Missouri, the pioneer in training college men and women for newspaper work gave one of the new chapters to Sigma Delta Chi on December 5, and one day and two months later the chapters approved the petition of the Thirty club at the University of Texas, granting to these men the privilege of carrying the banner blazoned with the symbolic quill into the far Southwest. When Xi chapter is installed in the Lone Star State, Sigma Delta Chi will be spreading her principles and furthering her ideals in four-

teen of the most progressive universities and colleges of the United States. And this stands as the accomplishment of the men who first took the vows April 17, 1909, back at old DePauw, and their successors in the ranks of college journalism.

Expansion has not been a fetish in Sigma Delta Chi. The rapid growth was due merely to the natural demand for a fraternity standing for those things that our fraternity does. The fields that have been opened have sent forth their petitions largely without encouragement from outside sources. They have sought the bond of the nation wide brotherhood which has for its mighty task the uplift of the American Press.

Today Sigma Delta Chi stands without rival in her chosen field. For while she does not remain alone among organizations of her kind, of all of them, Sigma Delta Chi only has made justifiable progress. The position that our fraternity now occupies insures that with intelligent expansion the field should remain for us to develop. But the consideration must always be present that unwarranted conservatism has drawn many fraternities, with prospects equally brilliant, into unnecessary rivalry with pugnacious young competitors.

The year will doubtless bring forward more names on our chapter list. The Press club at Oregon has a petition now before the chapters and Oregon stands with Missouri as one of the pathfinders in college journalism. Word comes from our energetic promoters in the West of prospects at the two fine California institutions, Stanford and the state university; of the murmur for Sigma Delta Chi at the Universities of Colorado, Vanderbilt, Oklahoma, Minnesota and Indiana; while possibilities lie at Tulane, University of Chicago, Universities of Pittsburgh and Buffalo, Cornell, and Nebraska. The situation at Columbia is peculiar but plans there are being carried out by our efficient National President, Brother Laurence H. Sloan, and while he gives no assurances of a petitioning body this year he promises a prospective chapter at an early date.

The desirability of having new chapters at the colleges mentioned will be a matter for the chapters to determine. It is probable that one or two will be considered unfavorably by the Executive Council but on the whole they measure up well. Cornell, Colorado, Minnesota and Oklahoma will doubtless be the universities whence the next petitions will originate.

The two most eastern chapters of the fraternity, Epsilon at the University of Virginia, and Mu at the University of Pennsylvania, are the worthy bulwarks in that direction. The development in this part of the country is necessarily slow and it is doubtful if any schools but Columbia and Cornell will be added to the existing industrious pair for several years. Still it is not well to prophetize concerning the growth of journalism even in the more conservative eastern institutions.

During the past months many inquiries have been received from organizations at smaller colleges which can not at present satisfy the requirements of Sigma Delta Chi. While all of these efforts have been discouraged they are excellent evidences of the fame of our fraternity. They bespeak the appreciation of the standard set in the schools where chapters of the fraternity exist.

Problems innumerable will meet the Convention at Madison only a few months distant. But the fraternity will be able to meet the difficulties with a definite policy of expansion already set and with an assured position for stability. With her internal organization developed as far as circumstances will permit at present the future can have no real obstacles with which to confront Sigma Delta Chi. Her banners have been pushed to the limits of our country by the zeal and indefatigable labor of her interested members. With the knowledge of similar efforts to come we can look ahead with a clear vision and see in store the control of the American Press by Sigma Delta Chi ideals.

WHAT SHALL BE WRITTEN IN THE HISTORY?

BY LEE A. WHITE,

NATIONAL HISTORIAN OF SIGMA DELTA CHI.

Every loyal brother in Sigma Delta Chi—and it is to be hoped that every brother in Sigma Delta Chi is loyal—is anxious that the past shall be perpetuated in substantial form; that the early struggles, the exhilarating successes, and cumulative ideals of the fraternity be preserved for the succeeding generations of the brotherhood. That is a natural and a laudable desire.

It must be obvious, however, that no one man, isolated from all but perhaps his own chapter, can write the history of each unit. Yet without the history of each unit, the annals of the whole cannot

be truly inscribed. This patent observation puts a duty up to each individual chapter. That duty is the preservation of the chapter history, and its transmission to the grand historian.

Traditions of the early beginnings of an organization linger more or less definitely; but traditions are not history in the best sense unless substantiated fully, and interwoven with the less picturesque but none the less vital, details of travail, birth and upbringing. Before the mist settles over the past of your chapter, it should be your aim, individually, to see that the grand historian is provided with a record of the days that are gone.

To this end the historian asks that each chapter designate a member to examine carefully the minutes of the meetings; to interview charter members as to the inspiration for organization and the personnel of each chapter at birth; to inscribe the ideals of each chapter as related to its university, the national fraternity and the profession; and wherever possible to obtain every manner of photograph that can perpetuate the youth of the order. The grand historian will endeavor to catalog and preserve all of these documents, certain to be precious in the future; and will strive to reduce the whole to a unified history.

It will be easy for the chapters to commend these ideas, but the essential thing is not so much commendation as action. Will you see that the grand historian has the history of *your* chapter as early as possible, that at least a respectable report may be made to the convention this year?

The historian takes this opportunity for a gratuitous criticism, since he has no chapter hall in which to utter himself.

The history of an organization is not the perpetuation of its successes and virtues alone, but of its failures and vices as well. For that reason it is to be hoped that each chapter will strive to keep itself worthy in the highest sense.

There has been, and is, a tendency upon the part of chapters, and the historian does not exclude his own, to ignore the pioneer steps of small institutions, kow-towing for the condescending attention of the vaster university upon the heights. None more than he aspires to see the brotherhood grow in a dignified and sturdy manner. He is not in haste to see all of the colleges of the land represented upon our rolls; but he is not enamored of the task of saying in the history of Sigma Delta Chi that one university, whose record of achievement is of the finest, was ignored, rejected, humiliated,

lest we offend the prospective chapter upon the heights; lest we have that university snub us because of the presence of one less pretentious.

The phrase "undignified" was used in connection with the too hasty acceptance of colleges. The historian can conceive nothing more undignified in the history of Sigma Delta Chi than fawning at the feet of one body while we give the heel to another.

He hopes to have a minimum of such chapters to indite.

COLLEGE JOURNALISM

BY THOMAS F. MORAN,
HONORARY MEMBER OF ETA CHAPTER.

Senator George F. Hoar made the following statement, a few years ago, in an address before the students of Harvard University: "I have in my time known many men famous in war, in statesmanship, in science, in the professions, and in business. If I were asked to declare the secret of their success, I should attribute it in general not to any superiority of natural genius, but to the use they made in youth, after the ordinary day's work was over, of the hours which other men throw away or devote to idleness or rest or society." It seems to me that the college man who devotes a part of his leisure time to journalism is making a profitable investment. He is crystallizing his thoughts and improving his art of expression. I need not dwell here upon the value of accurate, terse, and forceful expression. Efficiency in every other line is lessened by the lack of it. Senator Hoar, in the address above referred to, remarked: "There are few of the high places in this country in which a good English style, the gift of speaking well, literary taste, knowledge of the best literature in our own and foreign tongues, the power of clear and orderly reasoning are not of the greatest value. You will, in all probability, get these here or will lay a foundation for them here, or nowhere."

The most effective way to learn to write is by writing. For this reason a large part of the work in college courses in English Composition consists in the writing of short papers on timely topics. If the writer feels that his article has a practical bearing and is to

appear in the college paper, zest will be added to his endeavor. It will not be a purely academic performance.

In this matter as in others it is practice that makes perfect—if indeed there is such a state as perfection. It is said that John Morley, when a young man, aspired to be a journalist. He wrote an editorial every day and sent it to a paper for nearly a year before one appeared in print. At a later time he swayed British opinion from one end of the islands to the other by his crisp and pungent editorials. In relating the above incident George Herbert Palmer remarks: "I am sure an ambitious author is wise who writes a weekly essay for his stove." Constant effort is the price which most of us must pay for efficiency in the use of the mother tongue. A few are particularly gifted in this respect: most of us are not. A fair degree of efficiency can, however, be attained by persistent endeavor. George Herbert Palmer in his "Self-Cultivation in English" says: "Whosoever goes to his grave with bad English in his mouth has no one to blame but himself for the disagreeable taste; for if faulty speech can be inherited, it can be exterminated too."

This, however, is not the only good result coming from college journalism. It affords an excellent practice in written expression, but it does more. It exercises and develops the judgment. The college journalist must decide upon what to include and what to exclude. He must weigh and balance and consider. He must also discriminate, and upon the wisdom of his discrimination will depend, to a very large extent, the character and the standing of his paper. He is in a responsible position and responsibility should beget conservatism in policy and sobriety in expression.

College journalism should also cultivate accuracy in statement. One does not need to be told that there is a vast deal of misinformation floating about in a college community. Exaggerated statements, half-truths, and unfounded rumors abound. The college journalist should learn not to take these at their face value. He should investigate, probe, verify, and sift, and give his readers the plain, unadorned facts. It is in this way that the reputation of a paper is built up.

Having obtained the facts, the writer should set them before his readers in a simple, orderly, and straightforward way. There should be no ambiguity or obscurity and no rhetorical flourishes. The best style is that which conveys the thought to the reader in the simplest and clearest manner. Rhetorical embellishments tend

only to encumber and to distract. The practiced and efficient writer will have none of them. They are amateurish.

The pressure under which journalistic work is now done has a tendency to lower its quality. The paper must be gotten out on time and the rush is on. The time is short and slovenly work is the result. Careless habits and low standards must inevitably ensue. The young journalist must be on his guard against these tendencies. He must cultivate efficiency but he must not succumb to the temptation of slovenly habits. If he does he will not develop. Addison never penned a line without doing it as well as he could. It is in this way that standards are raised.

It seems to me then that there are three considerations which the college journalist should have constantly in mind: (1) accuracy in regard to facts; (2) good judgment and a careful discrimination in the selection of facts; and (3) a lucid expression.

SOME PROBLEMS IN TEACHING JOURNALISM

BY H. F. HARRINGTON.

Director of Courses in Journalism,
Ohio State University.

Many problems in making college training in journalism efficient and practical are facing the teachers in newspaper making the country over. They are hard at work in a somewhat hostile, untried field, at best groping their way through a maze of experiment, experience and theory. New and hazardous as have been the methods already formulated they have already proved to a certainty their effectiveness and serviceability. Those editors and wiseacres who scoffed loudly have remained to lend enthusiastic co-operation to the proposition that the college man or woman can be prepared for newspaper work in university buildings and under skilled professional direction. Much has been accomplished when such an admission on the part of present-day newspaper workers has been secured. The work has at least passed the stage of argument.

But the problems that confront the instructors are more intimate, closer to the ground. One is the relation of the theory to the practice or the application of the text-book and lecture to the laboratory.

In some university communities this has been solved by the publishing of a campus and city newspaper, in which practical experi-

ence is afforded in the gathering of news and in the handling of printed sheets. In at least one university, the publishing of such a laboratory sheet is discountenanced, on the ground that it would be a poor substitute for the real thing. Personally, I do not see how any training in journalism is to be broadly helpful unless outlet is given in the publication of a complete newspaper of college life, inadequate as it may be. The old way of teaching composition was to entail a required number of theses on a variety of threadbare subjects. There is a fascination in seeing your own "stuff" in type, in seeing the result of your hard news-chasing and swift recording of impressions, harnessed between the columns of a newspaper. Fictitious stories for practice will not do. No make-shift will lend the bloom of interest necessary. The student must learn to do by doing, whether he gathers news or writes headlines, or makes up the first page or "sticks" type. It is this practical, objective application of class-room dicta that is to receive an added emphasis as the years progress. Yet in many quarters the details of relating this to journalistic instruction so as to keep the fresh, enthusiastic glimmer of student opinion and direction still focused in the paper, are still to be worked out. What is to be the relation of the instructor in journalism to this laboratory newspaper so that the best possible result, will be achieved?

Still another problem is concerned with the insistence placed on the teaching of idealism, ethics, journalistic responsibilities and missions, as opposed to the practical, matter-of-fact details of technical proficiency. Here, again, my own practice is to lay firm, unqualified emphasis upon the higher task and the bigger outlook, on the ground that what the new journalism needs is men of broader visions and more exalted ideals, not of more reporters, more news-gatherers, but rather a better grade of trained intellects. We want a finer mettle of equipment for the service of the common good.

There are some minor problems that I have only space to mention. What importance shall be attached to the use of typewriters in the preparation of "copy"? What methods shall be adopted to instill a higher degree of accuracy and how may we best root up and destroy the wild impulse to *fake*, when the "story" is not forthcoming? What is to be the relation of journalistic courses to the large newspapers on the outside?

I am glad to know that students are beginning to discuss these problems themselves. Such an organization as Sigma Delta Chi can

do a commendable work in insisting upon higher ethical standards for the profession and in sending its men out into active service with at least the appreciation of some goal to be attained and some citadel to be captured. The greatest contribution of college training in journalism is to be in the making of clean, stalwart, alert, far-sighted men, who will bring their splendid personality and brains into newspaper making.

X SUBSCRIBER NUMBER ONE

Chicago, Ill., February 26, '13.

Editor "The Quill":

Imagine by emotions on reading the initial number of "The Quill" which reached my desk, via Greencastle, February 25.

A flood of memory transported me to Greencastle, Ind., to a dingy upstairs room in Dr. Stephenson's home, where in the winter and spring of 1909 a half dozen of "Us boys" worked and labored, smoked and laughed, studied and reflected around a dim student's lamp in the hope that we might be contributing something to the liveliest profession in the world by the creation of SIGMA DELTA CHI.

Ah, Brother Editor, the mixture of feelings I experienced in reading The Quill. Every word, letter, figure, syllable, dash and dot opened up a new picture of the past.

It is with something akin to reverence that I touch and handle—yes caress—The Quill for I love this little magazine. It means much to me.

I remember distinctly that it was my hand which signed the charters of Beta, Gamma, and Delta—three of our big and glorious chapters. And the hand which signed those chapters, as president of the Fraternity, and gave to those young journalists, like myself, an incentive for future endeavor is again ready to assist in the further promotion of SIGMA DELTA CHI.

Since graduation from DePauw in the winter of 1910 I have edited a country newspaper, and for four months worked as city editor of the Anderson Morning Herald, Anderson, Ind. However I am fitting myself for newspaper illustration work and have turned out some cartoon work of merit. If I can design, cartoon, or illustrate any of the coming numbers of the Quill I certainly will take

a great delight in helping you. I have a scheme in my noodle for the further financing of The Quill. I want to see it endure and steadily advance. I will send you in detail at a later date my ideas for this. And in the meantime I will lay aside the pennies and try to get in on the National convention at Wisconsin in the spring. If I can help you in any way call on me at once.

You did the right thing in handing a good word to old Snooks Sloan. Many and many a night when we should have been with our cob-webbed text books have we fanned the little spark and hoped and prayed for success. I can see Snooks now with a wad of "Old Kentuck" in the hollow of his bony face dictating letter after letter to me. Enclosed find post office money order for \$1, for which please send me The Quill. I cannot do without it. Fraternally yours,

WILLIAM GLENN...

*Sigard
D. Glenn
Sept 17, 1950
Indiana Beach, Ind.
Co-founder*

CHAPTER NEWS

ALPHA CHAPTER,
GREENCASTLE, INDIANA.

Alpha chapter has been able to hold its regular meetings including two open meetings, when members of the classes in journalism were present as the guests of the fraternity. On Monday evening, February 24, Brother Piercy, who is head of the department of journalism at Indiana University, addressed the chapter in an open meeting.

In literary affairs at De Pauw, Sigma Delta Chi is well represented. Brother Tucker is editor-in-chief of the *Mirage*, the annual yearbook, and is also a member of *Tusitala*, a literary society, to which Professor Nathaniel Waring Barnes, honorary member of Sigma Delta Chi, also belongs. Billingsley is editor-in-chief of the *De Pauw Daily*, Brother Guild, assistant editor-in-chief, Brother Appleman, business manager, and Brother Ogle and Brother Tucker, and Brother Buckingham, associate editors. Brother Hulverson was also an associate editor but was compelled to resign owing to other work. Brother Guild is *De Pauw* correspondent for the *Indianapolis Star* and Brother Morin for the *Indianapolis News*.

The attention of Alpha is now centered chiefly upon new men whom we will consider at our next meeting. As many of the pres-

ent members are seniors, we hope to find a number of men who are eligible to membership to carry on the work next year.

H. R. MORIN.

GAMMA CHAPTER

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN.

Gamma is adhering strictly to the spirit of the constitutional provision which limits membership in Sigma Delta Chi to those who intend to follow journalism as a profession after leaving college. Accordingly, our January initiation resulted in but three new members, namely, Fred B. Foulk, Bruce Miles, and Harold Scott. Our spring initiation, also the occasion of the annual banquet, at which many honorary and ex-active members will be in attendance, may be more prolific of neophytes, since several good men are now close to the margin.

Twice a month, the chapter meets for business sessions, alternating straight meetings with luncheons at the Michigan Union, the latter serving as a signal for speech-making and the discussions of journalistic movements and problems.

The fraternity may count on a big Gamma representation at the Wisconsin convention, Gamma being fully appreciative of the good to be derived from such an assemblage and the extent to which the success of the fraternity is dependent upon the success of its conventions.

LORIN ROBINSON.

ZETA CHAPTER,

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON.

Zeta chapter is enjoying a most prosperous year. The following members of the chapter are represented on the various student publications of the University of Washington:

The University of Washington Daily: Andrew Eldred, editor-in-chief; Ralph Benjamin, Ralph Casey, Will Horsley, Archie M. Major, Carl H. Getz, associate editors; Orvis Gladdin, business manager.

The Tyee: C. H. Getz, assistant editor; Archie M. Major, Will Horsley, Ralph Casey, associate editors.

The Washingtonian: Ralph Casey, editor-in-chief; Will Horsley, Andrew Eldred, associate editors.

The Washington Alumnus: Will Simonds, editor-in-chief. Professor Edgar S. Sheridan, head of the department of journalism, and Abram W. Smith, instructor in the same department, are both honorary members of the chapter and have proven a valuable asset to the chapter. Professor Edmond S. Meany, head of the department of journalism, and the pioneer journalist of the state of Washington, is also an honorary member of Zeta chapter.

Zeta chapter is meeting each week at the various chapter houses represented by the personnel of organization. Every other week different newspaper men from the down-town papers are guests of the chapter.

CARL H. GETZ.

ETA CHAPTER

PURDUE UNIVERSITY.

The second semester has opened and prospects are good for Sigma Delta Chi. Eta now has eighteen active members, three associate and four honorary members. At the mid-year election five new men were taken into the fold and given the privilege of wearing the coveted pin. After the initiation on Feb. 27, a banquet was given at the Bohema Cafe and the new men were welcomed into the fraternity. The new men are: H. E. Hallensbe, G. L. Ogle, W. B. Van Arsdel, E. J. Lamb and R. E. Arnett. All are actively connected with the student publications. The chapter is planning to give the annual dance in May. Regular meetings are held twice a month.

T. WEED HARVEY.

THETA CHAPTER.

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Only five men came back to start things off for Theta this fall. Brother Graham Tanner, who would have been Sports Editor of the LANTERN was unable to come back to the University because of serious illness. We're hoping he will be with us again next year. Brother Lewis Laylin, Ex-Sports Editor of the LANTERN and Editor-in-chief of the SUN-DIAL changed schools, going to George Washington University. We have also lost five of the old stand-by's through graduation—Brothers Kiplinger,

Meckstroth, Toole, Waugh, and Durham. We are still fortunate in having the first three in Columbus, however. Both Kiplinger and Mackstroth are on the Ohio State Journal, and Toole is in the advertising end of the F. and B. Lazarus Co. here. Brother Waugh is on the editorial staff of the "Ohio Farmer" with offices in Cleveland.

We make it the practice here to precede almost every meeting with a little dinner at Ohio Union, and it was a rather lonely crew that gathered around the table the first time in the fall. We elected seven new men to membership, thereby securing practically a monopoly on journalistic talent around school. There are now in the fold the Business Managers and the Editors of both the University newspaper and magazine, the LANTERN and SUN-DIAL, respectively, besides numerous other hacks, wretches and minions connected with both publications. Prof. H. F. Harrington, Director of the Courses in Journalism, also our honorary member and prime advisor, is likewise Editor of the Ohio State Monthly which is the Alumni publication of the University.

On January 8th we held an initiation, which is an affair quite as interesting to the older men as to the initiates. Each candidate is required to read at this time a 2000 word thesis on some phase of journalistic work that has been investigated by himself. One copy of this is filed with the fraternity and another is presented, bound (and gagged), to the University library. We try to make these theses as up-to-the-minute and originally alive as possible, and we regard this requisite part of our initiation as valuable to both ourselves and the pledges. Preceding the ceremonies there was the usual "elaborate banquet" which several of the alumni also attended.

At a recent meeting of the Ohio College Press Association at which practically every college paper in Ohio was represented, Brother Robert Steffan was unanimously elected President of the Association.

It has been the custom of the fraternity ever since its founding to get out at least once a year a rare and rabid sheet called the YELLOW SPYDER. The YELLOW SPYDER gets everybody, students and faculty alike, shows up their foibles and depravities with remorseless glee. If they don't happen to have either they are worse off than if they had; crimes are attributed to them in the inverse ratio. Now the Publication Board of the faculty has

caved in our joy by murdering the offensive bug. Ghastly plots for revenge are hatching.

Those of us interested in Journalism at the University are now laying plans for a big "Journalism Week" sometime in the spring when there will be prominent newspaper-men here to speak, general discussions, banquets and the like. Brother Steffen and Professor Harrington are doing most of the planning. If things work out it will be a big affair and Sigma Delta Chi will gain no little prestige and credit throughout the state. J. LEWIS MORRILL.

IOTA CHAPTER LETTER

MADISON, WISCONSIN.

Iota chapter held an initiation, December 3, in which Alvin C. Reis, George W. Hinman, and Charles P. Stivers were admitted into Sigma Delta Chi. A smoker and business meeting followed the initiation.

Plans are being formulated for the coming national convention of Sigma Delta Chi at Madison. In the next number of the *Quill* a description of Madison, illustrated by several half tones, will be given.

The following national convention committee has been announced by Brother Wells: Chairman, Charles R. Roter; secretary, C. P. Stivers; sessions, Arthur H. Brayton, Professor W. G. Bleyer, and Alvin H. Kessler; social, Arthur Hallam, Professor Carl Russell Fish; Alvin C. Reis; guests, C. F. G. Wernicke, G. M. Hyde, George W. Hinman, William A. Freehoff, and Arthur H. Brayton.

W. A. FREEHOFF.

A DEMOCRATIC YEAR.

Journalistic invention is not dead. Neither, it seems, are there limits to journalistic bad taste. *The Albion Democrat* of Albion, Indiana, raised itself to a deserving plane in the journalistic musee by appearing on September fifth printed in a combination of three colors, green, blue, and red. The colors shaded into each other on the page. The top of the first page was green, which shaded into blue at the bottom. Other pages were variously combined making the *Democrat* a rival of Joseph's cloak.

W. K. T.

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